

Introduced by Senator Haynes

February 26, 1997

An act relating to the State Bar of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 845, as introduced, Haynes. State Bar of California: law students' examination.

The State Bar Act provides that, in order to be admitted to practice law, an applicant must meet certain requirements, including passing a general bar examination. In addition, a student attending a nonaccredited law school must pass a law students' examination and may not receive credit for the first year or subsequent years of study until he or she has passed the examination, as specified. These examinations are given by the examining committee established by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California.

This bill would require that, at the administration of the July 1998 general bar examination, the examining committee must give the same essay questions on contracts, criminal law, and torts to persons taking the law students' examination and to persons taking the general bar examination. The examining committee shall compare the essay question scores of persons taking the law students' examination against those taking the general bar examination, and shall report its findings to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and of the Assembly.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. To determine the relative degree of
2 difficulty of the law students' examination required by
3 subdivision (h) of Section 6060 of the Business and
4 Professions Code, the examining committee shall, on the
5 first day of the administration of the July 1998 general bar
6 examination, administer the same contracts, criminal law,
7 and torts essay questions, at the same time, to those taking
8 the law students' examination and the general bar
9 examination. The written answers shall be mixed and
10 shall be graded anonymously according to the standards
11 for the general bar examination. The scores shall
12 comprise the essay portion for persons taking the law
13 students' examination. The regular multiple choice
14 portion of the law students' examination shall be
15 administered on the same day as the essay portion. The
16 law students' examination and the general bar
17 examination results shall be released at the same time.
18 Within 30 days of the release of the results, the examining
19 committee shall file a written report with the judiciary
20 committees of the Legislature comparing the contracts,
21 criminal law, and torts essay question scores of those
22 taking the law students' examination with those taking
23 the general bar examination.

